



IVY CHAIN



22 - 23

by Elisa Chavez

Since graduation time is around the corner, this year's Ivy Chain list was just announced at the A.B. Miller *Rebelchella* spring rally.

The top thirty juniors with the highest GPA ranking with no Ds or Fs on their transcripts, were invited to attend the class of 21-22 graduation ceremony where they will be celebrated for their academic achievement ahead of next year's graduation ceremony.

"It is not something that was easy for me because you have to stay on top of your classes since the beginning of entering high school and this takes a lot of effort especially if you're going to be taking AP classes that require heavier workloads," confided Amy Gomez. Regardless of the hard work and stress, Gomez reflected she is "most excited for the ceremony and getting to put on the white gown—it will be become a special memory for not only [her] but for my family." Amongst the group of Ivy chain juniors stands an individual who will most likely become Valedictorian for the class of 22-23. "My prediction for our future Valedictorian has to be Julian Zepeda or Lindsay Carlos because I feel like they are the smartest and hardest workers when it comes to school," she offered.



Speaking of Carlos, she was very pleased because as she put it, "it's definitely a challenge if you want this because it's not easy trying to get one hundred percent and A's all the time; nobody is perfect like that, but if you want this then it's possible, you just have to put in the effort and never forget to be nice to your teachers because that definitely gives you leniency." Carlos expresses that she only values academic recognition to a certain extent because everyone interprets hard work in a different way and "regardless, you should always be proud of yourself no matter what awards, praise, or recognition" is received. Carlos also predicts that Vanessa Taylor—another Ivy Chain member—will be next year's Valedictorian.

Mariah Viramontes admits that it was a complete shock for her in being awarded Ivy Chain. "I am most excited for using this achievement when applying to college and having it on my records since getting on the list identifies you as the very top of the class amidst all the other students in the same grade," she professed. For Viramontes, academics has always been something she has had to put in plenty of hard work and to be recognized "feels nice because [she works] hard for myself, and



[she knows] it pays off at the end." Although Viramontes does not picture herself as the Valedictorian next year, she enthusiastically predicts that fellow Ivy Chain honoree, Maritza Martinez, will earn the title.

Last but not least, Michelle Aguilar claims that she did expect to make Ivy Chain as it was a goal of hers to achieve throughout her academic career. Aguilar claims, "it's very worth it to be awarded in Ivy Chain, especially receiving an early release as the seniors do, however [she believes] the hardest part was that [she] had to sacrifice a lot of [her] social life to stay on top of schoolwork." As the ceremony approaches, she is more than excited for the experience and memories: "it almost feels like a practice for our own ceremony next year." Aguilar is excited for how her own senior year will play out and predicts that Lindsay Carlos will lead the upcoming seniors as valedictorian of class of 22-23.

The graduation ceremony will be held on May 25 at the Toyota Arena at 7PM.

In addition to Elisa Chavez, Amy Gomez, Lindsay Carlos, Miriah Viramontes, Vanessa Taylor, Maritza Martinez, Julian Zepeda, and Michelle Aguilar rounding out the 21-22 Ivy Chain is Ahmad Abou Daoud, Estefania Aguilar, Melanie Aguilar, Estrella Aguirre, Kelly Azuara, Arlene Batres, Alyssa Brown, Francisco Carranza, Genesis Cobian, Yatzery Cruz, Miriam De La Cruz, Jairy Flores-Pinzon, Celeste Garcia, Layla Llamas Maritza Martinez, Jose Morales, Josefa Ongco, Alondra Perez Alvarez, Jorge Ramirez Sandoval, Carina Ramos, Karm Anthony Reyes, Trinere Rojas, Judy Sanchez Gonzalez, Celeste Serna, Erika Toriz, Lizbeth Velasco Martinez, Mariah Viramontes, and Helie-Tu Vu.



paves the way for summer

by Ailene Roque

As the school year comes to an end, students have time to debrief from another year and anticipate the start of summer break. Whether you have trips planned or even summer school, students have time to explore their creativity, focus on their hobbies and build on their interests.

Many of the activities we carry out at home often define who we are beyond school, however that may not be the case for everyone. Often, summer may be defined as the time to lay back and relax, but on the other side of the spectrum, others may want to occupy their time with something more time-consuming and engaging.

For those that do not have any hobbies, building LEGO sets may be the perfect activity to consider. Although it may be an expensive hobby, it can also be a worthy investment in the long run. Many sets often gain value once they become discontinued and reach their "end of life," a phrase used by LEGO to define their retired sets.

Although LEGO is often generalized toward kids, plenty of joy can be taken out of the building process for people of all ages. LEGO's Botanical collection is a line geared towards adult consumers and it has increasingly become one of their most popular lines amongst LEGO's other distinguishable themes like *Star Wars*, *Disney*, and their Minifigure blind bags.

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